

526 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUL 2001

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 450106-02850
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known see 37 C.F.R. 1.5) 09/889459
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/08113	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 17 NOVEMBER 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 17 NOVEMBER 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS, SYSTEM THEREOF, AND EXTENSION FUNCTION PROVIDING METHOD			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Masashi NAKAMURA, Hisayoshi MORIWAKI, Sunao FURUI, Ichiro HAMADA			

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

- ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
- ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
- ☒ This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
- ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
- ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
- ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
- ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - ☒ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
- ☐ A English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
- ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
- ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

- ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
- ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
- ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
- ☐ A substitute specification.
- ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
- ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
- ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
- ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
- ☒ Other items or information:
PCT/RO/101, PCT/ISA/210
14 Sheets of Drawings, 1 Page Abstract

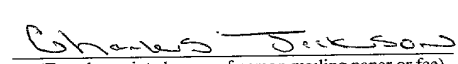
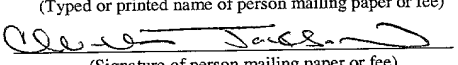
EXPRESS MAIL

Mailing Label Number: **EL819166370US**

Date of Deposit: **July 16, 2001**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service

"Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT Washington, DC 20231.


 (Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.50) 09/889439		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/08113		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 450106-02850	
--	--	---	--	---------------------------------------	--

21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO\$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO\$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO\$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)\$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =					
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total Claims	12 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$ 0.00	
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 860.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 860.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignments (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 900.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Charged:	\$

a. ☒ Two checks in the amount of **\$ 900.00** to cover the above fees are enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. **50-0320**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

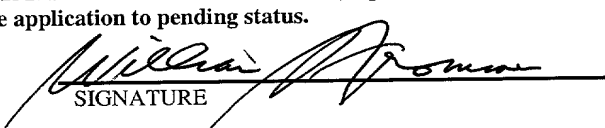
d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit
card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization
on PTO-2038.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**WILLIAM S. FROMMER, ESQ.
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10151**

Dated: July 16, 2001


 SIGNATURE
 WILLIAM S. FROMMER
 NAME
 25,506
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS, SYSTEM THEREOF,
AND EXTENSION FUNCTION PROVIDING METHOD

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a digital
signal processing apparatus, a system thereof, and an
extension function providing method that are suitable
for a digital broadcast receiving device that receives
a satellite digital broadcast or a ground wave digital
10 broadcast, in particular, to those that allow the
receiving device to be effectively designed, easily
design-changed, and easily applied for an added service
and an improved function.

Background Art

15 Analog television broadcasts are becoming
changed to digital television broadcasts. So far,
digital satellite broadcast services using CS
(Communication Satellites) have been started. In
addition, digital satellite broadcast services using BS
20 (Broadcasting Satellites) are being prepared. Moreover,
digital television broadcasts using ground waves are
scheduled to be started.

25 In digital television broadcasts, since the
frequency efficiency is improved, more channels can be
assigned than analog television broadcasts. In
addition, HDTV (High Definition Television) broadcasts
can be easily performed. Moreover, in digital

television broadcasts, various services such as bi-directional service, data delivery service, and video-on-demand that are not available in conventional analog television broadcasts can be accomplished.

5 A television receiver that receives such a digital television broadcast is conventionally structured as shown in Fig. 1.

10 In Fig. 1, a received signal is supplied from an input terminal 101 to a tuner circuit 102. In the case of a CS digital broadcast, a signal of 12 GHz band is received by a parabola antenna (not shown). The received signal is converted into a signal of 1 GHz band by a low noise converter disposed in the parabola antenna. The converted signal is supplied to the tuner circuit 102. The tuner circuit 102 selects a carrier frequency signal of a desired channel from the received signal and performs a demodulating process and an error correcting process for the selected signal. As a result, the tuner circuit 102 decodes the selected signal to a transport stream composed of video packets and audio packets.

20 An output of the tuner circuit 102 is supplied to a demultiplexer 103. The demultiplexer 103 separates the transport stream into video packets and audio packets.

25 The video packets are supplied to a video decoder 104. The audio packets are supplied to an

audio decoder 105. The video decoder 104 performs a decompressing process for the video packets corresponding to for example the MPEG 2 (Moving Picture Experts Group) system so as to decode the video packets to video data. In addition, the audio decoder 105 performs a decompressing process for the audio packets corresponding to the MPEG system so as to decode the audio packets to audio data.

The video data decoded by the video decoder 104 is supplied to a graphics processing circuit 106. The graphics processing circuit 106 performs a picture process. An output of the graphics processing circuit 106 is output from an output terminal 107. An output of the audio decoder 105 is output from an output terminal 108.

The tuner circuit 102, the demultiplexer 103, the video decoder 104, the audio decoder 105, and the graphics processing circuit 106 are controlled by an MPU (Micro Processor Unit) 111. A bus 111 extends from the MPU 111. The tuner circuit 102, the demultiplexer 103, the video decoder 104, the audio decoder 105, and the graphics processing circuit 106 are connected to the bus 110.

In addition, a modem 112 and for example an IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) 1394 interface 113 are connected to the bus 110. The modem 112 is used to perform a charging

process. The IEEE 1394 interface 113 exchanges a stream with an external device.

As was described above, in a conventional receiver for a digital television broadcast, the entire receiver is controlled by an MPU. The MPU centrally controls each portion of hardware using commands thereof in consideration of precise timing levels thereof.

However, in that method of which the MPU centrally controls the entire device in consideration of each portion of the hardware, since the design work should be performed for each device, if the design of the device is changed, software should be largely rewritten and hardware should be largely changed. Thus, the developing efficiency of such a method is low. In addition, since parts cannot be used in common or structured as modules, the cost of the device may rise. In addition, the size of the device may become large. Moreover, digital television broadcasts provide various types of services. Thus, in the method of which the MPU centrally manages the entire device, it is difficult to deal with new services.

To solve such a problem, functions necessary for a television receiver may be structured as blocks and connected through a common bus. When such a bus is used, the design efficiency of the device can be improved and the design change thereof can be easily

performed.

In addition, when a bus is standardized, by adding hardware for providing an extension function to the bus, a new service can be used. For example, when an extension plug-in card for an extension function is prepared and connected to the bus through an interface, various functions and services may be newly added.

However, when hardware for an extension function is connected to the bus, to cause the hardware to operate, the host MPU should recognize the hardware and issue commands to the hardware. To allow the host MPU to issue commands to the hardware, software may have to be installed to the host MPU. The install work for the software may be troublesome for non-experienced users of television receivers.

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a digital signal processing apparatus, a system thereof, and an extension function providing method that allow hardware for an extended function to be easily connected to a bus for a device of which required functions are structured as blocks and connected through a standardized bus.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention is a digital signal processing apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of digital signal processing blocks and a host arithmetic operation processing block

as functions necessary for processing a digital signal;

a bus for connecting the host arithmetic operation processing block and the plurality of digital signal processing blocks; and

5 an interface for an extension function providing medium connected to the bus,

wherein the extension function providing medium has:

10 a means for accomplishing an extension function; and

a script embedding a command for operating the extension function, and

15 wherein when the extension function providing medium is attached to the bus through the interface, the script is sent to the host arithmetic operation processing block side and a function of the extension function providing medium is operated corresponding to the command embedded in the script.

20 The present invention is a digital signal processing system, comprising:

a digital signal processing apparatus having:

a plurality of digital signal processing blocks and a host arithmetic operation processing block as functions necessary for processing a digital signal,

25 a bus for connecting the host arithmetic operation processing block and the plurality of digital signal processing blocks, and

an interface for an extension function
providing medium connected to the bus; and

an extension function providing medium
attached to the interface of the extension function
5 providing medium on the digital signal processing side,

wherein the extension function providing
medium has:

a means for accomplishing an extension
function; and

10 a script embedding a command for operating
the extension function, and

wherein when the extension function providing
medium is attached to the bus through the interface,
the script is sent to the host arithmetic operation
15 processing block side and a function of the extension
function providing medium is operated corresponding to
the command embedded in the script.

The present invention is an extension
function providing method, comprising the steps of:

20 structuring functions necessary for
processing a digital signal as a plurality of digital
signal processing blocks and a host arithmetic
operation processing block;

connecting the host arithmetic operation
25 processing block and the plurality of digital signal
processing blocks through a bus; and

providing an interface for an extension

function providing medium connected to the bus,

wherein the extension function providing
medium has:

5 a means for accomplishing an extension
function; and

a script embedding a command for operating
the extension function, and

10 wherein when the extension function providing
medium is attached to the bus through the interface,
the script is sent to the host arithmetic operation
processing block side and a function of the extension
function providing medium is operated corresponding to
the command embedded in the script.

15 Elements necessary for a digital television
receiver are structured as blocks and connected through
a general-purpose bus. In addition, an extension plug-
in card for a new service can be attached and detached
to / from the bus. The extension plug-in card has
20 hardware that accomplishes an extension function and a
script that describes a command for controlling the
hardware. When the extension plug-in card is attached
to the bus through an interface, the script is
automatically uploaded to the host arithmetic operation
processing block side. The host arithmetic operation
25 processing block can operate the extension plug-in card
corresponding to the transferred script. Thus, when
new hardware is added, it is not necessary to install

software.

Brief Description of Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing an example of a conventional receiving device for a digital television broadcast; Fig. 2 is a block diagram for explaining the basic structure of the present invention; Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram for explaining generations of commands and a screen display; Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram for explaining a command sent from a host processor; Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram for explaining a command sent from the host processor; Fig. 6 is a flow chart for explaining the case that a driver is installed; Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing an example of a television receiver according to the present invention; Fig. 8 is a block diagram showing an example of an encrypting process performed in the television receiver according to the present invention; Fig. 9 is a block diagram showing another example of the encrypting process performed in the television receiver according to the present invention; Fig. 10 is a perspective view for explaining the television receiver according to the present invention; Fig. 11 is a block diagram for explaining the case that an extension plug-in card is attached to the television receiver according to the present invention; Fig. 12 is a schematic diagram for explaining generations of commands and a display screen in the case that a new

device is attached; Fig. 13 is a flow chart for explaining the case that the extension plug-in card is attached to the television receiver according to the present invention; and Fig. 14 is a flow chart for explaining the case that the extension plug-in card is attached to the television receiver according to the present invention.

Best Modes for Carrying out the Invention

Next, with reference to the accompanying drawings, an embodiment of the present invention will be described. According to the embodiment of the present invention, a digital television receiver is structured in such a manner that elements necessary for the digital television receiver are structured as blocks and connected through a bus.

When elements necessary for a digital television receiver are structured as blocks and connected through a bus, various types of digital television broadcasts that vary in carrier waves, modulating systems, and compressing systems can be handled. Thus, the developing efficiency of digital television receivers is improved. In addition, when a new service is started, by adding hardware for the service, the device can easily handle the service.

Fig. 2 shows the basic structure of a digital television receiver of which elements necessary for the receiver are structured as blocks and connected through

a bus.

In Fig. 2, a digital television receiver 1 is structured in such a manner that blocks 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 necessary for the digital television receiver 1 are connected to a bus 10. The blocks 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 necessary for the digital television receiver are a host MPU block 11, an AV signal processing block 12, a front end block 13, an interface block 14, a plug-in interface block 15, and a built-in feature block 16 that are connected to the bus 10.

The host MPU block 11 controls the entire receiver. The AV signal processing block 12 performs a decompressing process for a video stream and an audio stream and a graphic process. The front end block 13 selects a carrier wave signal of a desired channel from a received television broadcast and performs a demodulating process, an error correcting process, and so forth for the selected signal so as to decode the video stream and the audio stream. The interface block 14 is an interface such as the IEEE 1394 interface for connecting the receiver with an external device. The plug-in interface block 15 is an interface for connecting the receiver with hardware for an extension function. The built-in feature block 16 accomplishes a required built-in function.

Chronological successive streams of video

data and audio data, commands, and data are transferred to the bus 10. The commands are high level layer commands that are not on real time basis and that do not depend on hardware structure, not low level layer commands for directly controlling hardware. For example, a command "Receive a frequency of X channel." is issued to the front end block 13. Those commands are also general-purpose script type commands such as "Enlarge (or reduce) the screen." or "Draw a circle." that are issued to the AV signal processing block 12.

When a script is described with hypertext, such operations can be easily accomplished.

In other words, as shown in Fig. 3, a script of which up - down keys 201A and 201B and enlarge - reduce keys 201C and 201D are displayed and commands CMD1 to CMD4 corresponding to the indications 201A to 201E are embedded is created with hypertext. When such a script is displayed, a screen shown in Fig. 3 is displayed on a screen of a browser. When the indications 201A to 201D for the channel up - down buttons and screen enlarge - reduce buttons are clicked, commands CMD1 to CMD4 corresponding thereto are generated. The commands are sent to the relevant blocks 11 to 16. When a block receives such a command, the block performs a process corresponding to the command. To cause each block to perform more complicated process, JAVA or the like can be used.

Of course, the present invention is not limited to the use of hypertext and JAVA.

The physical structure of the bus 10 is standardized. The blocks 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are designed so that they comply with the standardized bus. Basic blocks such as the host MPU block 11, the interface block 14, and the plug-in interface block 15 may be disposed on a mother board. The other blocks 12, 13, and 16 may be disposed on a daughter board. The blocks 12, 13, and 16 may be connected to the standardized bus. Alternatively, the individual blocks 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 may be structured as integrated circuits or modules.

In the above example, the receiver is divided into the host MPU block 11, the AV signal processing block 12, the front end block 13, the interface block 14, the plug-in interface block 15, and the built-in feature block 16. However, it should be noted that the dividing method is not limited to such an example.

Of course, when each block is disposed on a board, one block is not always composed of one board. In other words, two or more functional blocks may be disposed on one board. For example, the host MPU block 11 and the interface block 14 may be disposed on one board. Of course, one block may be composed of a plurality of boards.

Each of the block 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16

interprets a command received through the bus 10,
executes a process corresponding to the command, and
processes a stream and data received through the bus 10.

Since a command that does not largely depend
on hardware is received through the bus 10, each of the
blocks 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 has a CPU (Central
Processing Unit) in many cases so as to interpret the
received command and process it. The CPU of each of
the blocks 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 interprets a received
command and executes a process corresponding to the
command. Each of the blocks 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 has
a driver that operates hardware corresponding to the
received command. A portion that largely depends on
hardware completes a process in the block thereof.

In other words, as shown in a conceptual
diagram shown in Fig. 4, the host MPU block 11 side has
a high level interface HIF for a process with a high
level command that is a general purpose command and
that does not depend on hardware. On the other hand,
each of the blocks 12, 13, 14, and 15 side has a driver
DRV that interprets a high level command and performs a
process that more depends on hardware and a low level
interface LIF that directly controls the hardware.

The host MPU block 11 side sends a high level
command through the high level interface HIF and
transfers it to each block through the bus 10. The
driver DRV of each block interprets a high level

command. In that case, portions that depend on hardware are handled by the driver DRV of each of the blocks 12, 13, 14, and 15.

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 5, the host MPU block 11 side may have a driver DRV. However, in the case shown in Fig. 5, when new hardware is added or hardware is changed, a new driver DRV should be installed or the existing driver DRV should be changed.

High speed streams such as streams of video data and audio data and data that is not on real time basis such as commands and data are transferred to the bus 10. A bus that can transfer different types of data may have two bands that are a band for a high speed stream such as video data and audio data and a band for data that is not on real time basis such as commands. Alternatively, data may be assigned priority in such a manner that streams of video data and audio data are assigned high priority so that the streams of video data and audio data are transmitted at high speed.

A command that is transmitted to the bus 10 is for example a script type command that is not on real time basis unlike a timing control command. Thus, the data amount of a command that is sent can be remarkably suppressed. Consequently, the same bus 10 can send both commands and streams of video data and audio data.

In such a manner, the digital television

receiver is structured in such a manner that the individual blocks 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are connected through the bus 10 and commands, streams, and data are exchanged through the bus 10. Thus, the digital television receiver can easily handle various types of television broadcasts. Consequently, the developing environment of the receiver is remarkably improved.

For example, when a ground wave digital broadcast is started, a television receiver that receives it should be newly developed. However, when the receiver is designed from the beginning as the service the ground wave digital broadcast is started, the developing efficiency of the receiver becomes low.

Although the carrier frequency, modulating system, error correcting system, transport stream structure, and so forth of the conventional digital satellite broadcasts are different from those of ground wave digital broadcasts, when other systems of the conventional digital satellite broadcasts are the same as those of the ground wave digital broadcasts, only the AV signal processing block 12 and the front end block 13 for the ground wave digital broadcasts can be developed. In that case, as the services of the ground wave digital broadcasts are started, an AV signal processing block 12A for ground wave digital broadcasts and a front end block 13A for ground wave digital

TO 9720 65468860

broadcasts are developed. When only the AV signal processing block 12 and the front end block 13 are substituted with the AV signal processing block 12A and the front end block 13A, respectively, the television receiver can handle the ground wave digital broadcasts that will be newly started. Thus, it is not necessary to develop a receiver for ground wave digital broadcasts from the beginning. Even if particular portions for ground wave digital broadcasts are required, only those portions can be newly developed. In addition, the operation of the receiver can be changed by changing the application program of the host MPU block 11.

Likewise, receivers for digital television broadcasts through satellites in European countries and receivers for digital television broadcasts of US CATV stations can be easily developed without need to newly design those receivers from the beginning.

In CS digital broadcasts, a television receiver has a modem that is used for a charging process and that is connected to a management company through a telephone line. In such a case, a modem 16A is disposed as the built-in feature 16. Thus, a device necessary for receiving such a broadcast service can be easily mounted as the built-in feature block 16.

In addition, a music data downloading service, a video-on-demand service, and other services are

expected. To receive a new service, hardware may be added. In that case, the hardware is added as a device attached to the plug-in interface block 15.

When a block is replaced with another one or when a new device is attached to the plug-in interface block 15, a driver thereof may be required. In such a case, the driver may be stored in a memory of the block or a memory of the device attached to the plug-in interface block 15. When the block is replaced or the device is attached to the plug-in interface block 15, the driver may be automatically installed. In that case, the operability is improved.

In addition, as shown in Fig. 6, when a block is replaced or when a device is attached to the plug-in interface block 15, a service center may be called and a relevant driver may be downloaded therefrom.

In other words, as shown in Fig. 6, it is determined whether a block has been replaced or a new device has been attached to the plug-in interface block 15 (at step S101). When a block has been replaced or a new device has been attached to the plug-in interface block 15, the replaced device or the new device is recognized (at step S102). Thereafter, the service center is called by a telephone (at step S103). When the service center is called, software of the driver corresponding to the recognized device is transmitted through the telephone line. As a result, the software

of the driver is downloaded (at step S104).

Alternatively, software of the driver may be downloaded with a digital satellite broadcast signal or a digital ground wave broadcast signal.

5 Of course, only when each block requires a driver as shown in Fig. 4, the driver should be installed. Thus, when commands for individual blocks are high layer commands, it is not necessary to install a driver. However, in that case, when software of a
10 portion that depends on hardware is changed, it may be necessary to install a relevant driver.

As described above, digital television
15 broadcasts are performed through various transmission mediums such as a satellite, a ground wave, a CATV network, and a television line. Carrier waves, modulating systems, and compressing systems used for digital television broadcasts vary depending on transmission mediums, countries and areas, broadcasting companies, and so forth. In addition, in digital
20 television broadcasts, various services such as HDTV broadcast, data delivery service, and video-on-demand service are expected. Thus, receivers for digital television broadcasts corresponding to various transmission mediums, areas, services, and so forth
25 should be developed.

As described above, blocks that accomplish individual functions of a television receiver are

connected to a standardized bus. Streams of video data and audio data and commands are exchanged through the standardized bus. In that case, the developing efficiency of television receivers is improved. In addition, various types of television receivers can easily handle services that will be newly started.

Fig. 7 shows an example of the real structure of such a television receiver. In Fig. 7, an internal bus 22 extends from a host MPU 21. A ROM (Read Only - Memory) 23 is connected to the bus 22. An additional logic 24 is connected to the internal bus 22 so as to extend a function.

The ROM 23 stores an application program for operating the entire television receiver. An SDRAM 25 is connected to the host CPU 21. The SDRAM 25 stores user's personal information and various types of setting information. The host CPU 21 is connected to a bus 30 through a bus controller 26.

The bus 30 is used to transmit streams of video data and audio data that are chronologically successive data and commands and data. The commands are high layer commands that do not depend on hardware and that are not on real time basis.

An AV signal processing block 31, a front end block 32, an external interface block 33, and a built-in feature block 34 are connected to the bus 30. In addition, the bus 30 has a plug-in interface 35. An

extension plug-in card 36 can be attached to the plug-in interface 35.

5 A portion composed of the host MPU 21 may be disposed on a mother board. Each of the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 may be disposed on a daughter board. The shapes and terminal positions of the mother board and the daughter board may be pre-designated so that the daughter boards of the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 may be attached and detached to / from the mother board of the host MPU 21. Alternatively, the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 may be structured as blocks or integrated circuits.

10 Data transferred among the host MPU 21, the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34, and the extension plug-in card 36 through the bus 30 is managed by the bus controller 26. Alternatively, data may be directly transferred among the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 and the extension plug-in card 36 not through the host MPU 21 by the DMA (Direct Memory Access) control.

15 Data can be transferred from one block to one block. Alternatively, data can be transferred from one block to a plurality of blocks. In other words, data can be broadcast. The broadcast transferring operation can be used when a transport stream received from the front end block 32 is transmitted to the AV signal processing block 31 and the external interface block 33 at the same time so that while a picture is being reproduced, the transport stream can be transmitted to

a device connected to the external interface block 33.

The AV signal processing block 31 extracts video packets and audio packets from the transport stream and decompresses the video packets and audio packets to original video data and audio data. The AV signal processing block 31 can perform a picture process for the decoded video data.

The AV signal processing block 31 has a CPU 41, a video decoder 42, an audio decoder 43, a demultiplexer 44, a graphics processing circuit 45, and a bridge circuit 46. The CPU 41, the video decoder 42, the audio decoder 43, the demultiplexer 44, the graphics processing circuit 45, and the bridge circuit 46 are connected to an in-chip bus 47.

The front end block 32 selects a desired carrier wave signal from the received signal, demodulates the selected carrier wave signal, performs an error correcting process for the demodulated signal, and outputs a transport stream. The front end block 32 has a front end pack 51 and a CPU 52. The front end pack 51 has a mixer circuit, a local oscillating circuit, an intermediate frequency amplifying circuit, a demodulating circuit, an error correcting circuit, and so forth that convert the received signal into an intermediate frequency signal.

The interface block 33 provides an interface with an external device corresponding to for example

the IEEE 1394 standard. The external interface block 33 has an interface 61 corresponding to for example the IEEE 1394 standard and a CPU 62.

5 The built-in feature block 34 is used to provide an addition circuit necessary for receiving a digital broadcast. In a digital broadcast, received data is transferred through a telephone line so as to perform a charging process. To do that, a modem is disposed in the built-in feature block 34. The built-in feature block 34 has a circuit 71 that accomplishes an additional function (in this case, a modem) and a CPU 72.

10 The plug-in interface 35 provides an extension function for receiving a new service. The extension plug-in card 36 is attached to the plug-in interface 35. The extension plug-in card 36 has an extension function 81 and a CPU 82. The extension function 81 is composed of software and hardware that accomplish an extension function.

15 The structure shown in Fig. 7 composes a television receiver 20 that receives for example a digital CS broadcast. In that case, the front end block 32 that performs the QPSK demodulating process, the Viterbi decoding process, and the Reed-Solomon code error correcting process is used. The AV signal processing block 31 that decompresses video packets of transport streams compressed corresponding to the MPEG

2 system and audio packets compressed corresponding to the MPEG system is used.

In a digital CS broadcast, for example, a signal of 12 GHz band is used. A received signal of 12 GHz band transmitted from a satellite is received by a parabola antenna (not shown). The received signal is converted into a signal of around 1 GHz by a low noise converter disposed in the parabola antenna and sent to the front end block 32. The front end block 32 selects a carrier wave signal of a desired channel from the received signal. The front end block 32 performs the QPSK demodulating process, the Viterbi decoding process, and the Reed-Solomon code error correcting process for the signal so as to decode the received signal to the transport stream.

At that point, the received channel is selected corresponding to a command sent from the host MPU 21 through the bus 30. The host MPU 21 sends a high layer command such as "Receive a frequency of X channel." through the bus 30. The command is sent from the bus 30 to the CPU 52 of the front end block 32. The CPU 52 interprets the command and generates a control signal for designating the received frequency to a desired carrier wave frequency corresponding to the command. In reality, the CPU 52 generates a control signal of the PLL that composes the local oscillator. As a result, the frequency of the received

channel is designated.

5 The front end block 32 outputs a transport
stream of packets of video data compressed
corresponding to the MPEG 2 system and packets of audio
data compressed corresponding to the MPEG system. The
transport stream is sent to the AV signal processing
block 31 through the bus 30. Thereafter, the transport
stream is sent from the AV signal processing block 31
to the demultiplexer_44 through the bridge 46 and the
10 in-chip bus 47. The demultiplexer 44 separates the
transport stream into video packets and audio packets.
The video packets are sent to the video decoder 42.
The audio packets are sent to the audio decoder 43.
The video decoder 42 performs the decompressing process
15 for the video data compressed corresponding to the MPEG
2 system so as to decode the video data. The audio
decoder 43 performs the decompressing process for the
audio data compressed corresponding to the MPEG audio
system so as to decode the audio data. The video data
20 decoded by the video decoder 42 is sent to the graphics
processing circuit 45 through the in-chip bus 47. The
graphics processing circuit 45 performs the picture
process for the video data.

25 The picture process performed by the graphics
processing circuit 45 depends on a command received
from the host MPU 21 through the bus 30. A high layer
command for example "Reduce (or enlarge) the screen."

is sent from the host MPU 21 through the bus 30. The command is sent from the bus 30 to the CPU 41 through the bridge circuit 46. The CPU 41 interprets the command and generates a control signal for reducing /
5 enlarging the screen in the designated size corresponding to the command. In reality, the CPU 41 sends a timing signal for reducing or enlarging the screen and a command for directly controlling hardware to the graphics processing circuit 45 corresponding to
10 the received high layer command.

Thus, in that example, the individual functions necessary for structuring the television receiver 20 are connected as the blocks 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 to the bus 30. Commands and streams are
15 transferred through the bus 30. When the bus 30 is standardized, the developing efficiency of a television receiver is improved. Thus, a television receiver corresponding to a change of a broadcasting system, a change of a service, or an addition of a service can be
20 easily developed.

However, in that case, since streams composed of video packets and audio packets are directly transferred to the bus 30. Thus, an external device may be connected to the bus 30 so as to extract video
25 packets and audio packets sent through the bus 30 and copy them to the device. When the bus 30 is standardized, there is a risk of which a device that is

connected to the bus 30 and that extracts video packets and audio packets sent through the bus 30 is easily accomplished.

To protect contents, as shown in Fig. 8,
5 encryption encoders / decoders 48, 58, 68, 78, and 88 are disposed in the blocks 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, and the extension plug-in card 36 connected to the bus 30, respectively.

The encryption encoders / decoders 48, 58, 68,
10 78, and 88 encode streams of video packets and audio packets transferred from the blocks 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 through the bus 30. Since streams of video packets and audio packets transferred through the bus 30 are encrypted in such a manner, the contents can be
15 protected.

In that example, to protect contents that flow on the bus 30, the encryption encoders / decoders 48, 58, 68, 78, and 88 are disposed in the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34, and the extension plug-in card 36,
20 respectively. However, since the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 are housed in the set of the receiver, the risk of which contents are leaked out from the blocks 31, 32, 33, and 34 is relatively low. On the other hand, the bus 30 extends from the plug-in interface 35 to the
25 outside. When a device that copies data is connected to the plug-in interface 35 and contents are extracted from the bus 30, the risk of which the contents are

leaked out becomes the highest.

To prevent that, as shown in Fig. 9, an encoding encoder / decoder 89 may be disposed in the plug-in interface 35 so that data of contents that flow on the bus 30 is not leaked out from the plug-in interface 35.

In the television receiver 20 according to the present invention, when the extension plug-in card 36 is attached to the external extension bridge 35, a new function can be added so that the receiver can handle a new service.

In other words, as shown in Fig. 10, in the television receiver 20 structured as described above, a card attaching portion 91 is disposed on the front of the television receiver 20. The extension plug-in card 36 is attached to the card attaching portion 91. When the extension plug-in card 36 is attached to the card attaching portion 91, the extension plug-in card 36 is connected to the bus 30 through the plug-in interface 35.

When the extension plug-in card 36 is connected to the bus 30 through the plug-in interface 35, a function corresponding to a new service can be extended.

To allow the function of the extension plug-in card 36 that is attached to work, controlling software may be required. The controlling software may

be provided as a record medium such as a magnetic disk or an optical disc. The user may install the software to the television receiver. However, in that case, the user should spend time for the installing operation.

5 Thus, to prevent that, as shown in Fig. 11, a script is stored in the memory of the extension plug-in card 36. When the extension plug-in card 36 is attached, the script is uploaded to the main memory of the host MPU 21.

10 In other words, as shown in a conceptual diagram shown in Fig. 11, the extension plug-in card 36 has a command script CMD, a command interface CIF, and a driver DRV. When a new extension plug-in card 36 is attached, the host MPU 21 recognizes that the extension
15 plug-in card 36 has been attached. Thereafter, the command script CMD for causing the extension plug-in card 36 to operate is uploaded to the host CPU 21 side. When the command script CMD is uploaded to the host MPU
20 21 side, the host MPU 21 side can generate a command for causing the extension plug-in card 36 that has been attached to operate.

 When the extension plug-in card 36 is operated, a script engine SENG of the host MPU 21 side generates a command. The command is sent to the
25 extension plug-in card 36 through the bus 30. The command interface CIF of the extension plug-in card 36 interprets the command. The driver DRV controls

hardware corresponding to the received command.

When the extension plug-in card 36 is a device that records and reproduces a program, as shown in Fig. 12, a script is described as hypertext that embeds CMD 11, CMD 12, CMD 13, CMD 14, and CMD 15 for rewind, stop, play, fast forward, and record commands corresponding to a rewind key 202A, a stop key 202B, a play key 202C, a fast forward key 202D, and a record key 202E, respectively. When such a script is read, a screen as shown in Fig. 12 is displayed by a browser. When the keys 202A to 202E are clicked, the embedded commands are generated. Corresponding to the commands, the operation of the device is controlled.

Fig. 13 and Fig. 14 are flow charts showing such a process. In Fig. 13, when the extension plug-in card 36 is attached (at step S1), the host MPU 21 determines that the extension plug-in card 36 has been attached (at step S2). Thereafter, the host MPU 21 determines whether or not the attached card is the extension plug-in card 36 (at step S3). When the determined result of the host MPU 21 represents that the attached card is not the extension plug-in card 36, the host MPU 21 outputs an alarm (at step S4).

When the determined result of the host MPU 21 represents that the attached card is the extension plug-in card 36, the command script CMD stored in the extension plug-in card 36 is uploaded (at step S5).

When the command script CMD stored in the extension
plug-in card 36 is uploaded, the host MPU 21 recognizes
a command for the attached extension plug-in card 36
and performs a process for the attached extension plug-
in card 36.

In Fig. 14, after the command script has been
uploaded, when the user performs an operation for the
extension plug-in card 36 (at step S11), the script is
checked (at step S12). Thereafter, it is determined
whether or not the checked result is correct (at step
S13). When the checked result is not correct, an alarm
is output (at step S14). When the checked result is
correct, the script engine SENG interprets the script
(at step S15) and issues a command (at step S15). The
extension plug-in device is operated corresponding to
the command (at step S17).

In the above-described example, the case that
a new extension plug-in card 36 is attached was
described. Likewise, when a new block is added to the
bus 30, a command script for the new block can be
uploaded in the same manner.

In the above example, a digital broadcast
receiving device was described. However, the present
invention can be applied to other devices such as a
digital VTR.

According to the present invention, elements
necessary for a digital television receiver are

structured as blocks and connected through a general-purpose bus. In addition, an extension plug-in card for a new service can be attached and detached to / from the bus. The extension plug-in card has hardware that accomplishes an extension function and a script that describes a command for controlling the hardware. When the extension plug-in card is attached to the bus through an interface, the script is automatically uploaded to the host arithmetic operation processing block side. The host arithmetic operation processing block can operate the extension plug-in card corresponding to the transferred script. Thus, when new hardware is added, it is not necessary to install software.

Industrial Applicability

As described above, the present invention is particularly suitable for accomplishing a television receiver that receives various types of digital broadcasts that differ in carrier waves, modulating systems, compressing systems, and so forth.

CLAIMS

1. A digital signal processing apparatus,
comprising:

a plurality of digital signal processing
5 blocks and a host arithmetic operation processing block
as functions necessary for processing a digital signal;

a bus for connecting said host arithmetic
operation processing block and said plurality of
digital signal processing blocks; and

10 an interface for an extension function
providing medium connected to said bus,

wherein the extension function providing
medium has:

means for accomplishing an extension
15 function; and

a script embedding a command for operating
the extension function, and

wherein when the extension function providing
medium is attached to said bus through said interface,
20 the script is sent to said host arithmetic operation
processing block side and a function of the extension
function providing medium is operated corresponding to
the command embedded in the script.

2. The digital signal processing apparatus as
25 set forth in claim 1,

wherein each of said plurality of digital
signal processing blocks includes means for

interpreting a command received through said bus and
executing the command.

3. The digital signal processing apparatus as
set forth in claim 1,

5 wherein the command is a high layer command
that does not depend on hardware and that is not on
real time basis.

4. The digital signal processing apparatus as
set forth in claim 1,

10 wherein the command is described and embedded
in a script of hypertext,

wherein the hypertext is interpreted by a
browser and a picture for operating the extension
function is displayed, and

15 wherein a command corresponding to the
function is embedded and displayed in the picture for
operating the extension function.

5. A digital signal processing system,
comprising:

20 a digital signal processing apparatus having:
a plurality of digital signal processing
blocks and a host arithmetic operation processing block
as functions necessary for processing a digital signal,
a bus for connecting said host arithmetic
25 operation processing block and said plurality of
digital signal processing blocks, and
an interface for an extension function

providing medium connected to said bus; and
an extension function providing medium
attached to said interface of the extension function
providing medium on the digital signal processing side,
5 wherein said extension function providing
medium has:

means for accomplishing an extension
function; and

a script embedding a command for operating
10 the extension function, and

wherein when said extension function
providing medium is attached to said bus through said
interface, the script is sent to said host arithmetic
operation processing block side and a function of said
15 extension function providing medium is operated
corresponding to the command embedded in the script.

6. The digital signal processing system as set
forth in claim 5,

wherein each of said plurality of digital
20 signal processing blocks includes means for
interpreting a command received through said bus and
executing the command.

7. The digital signal processing system as set
forth in claim 5,

25 wherein the command is a high layer command
that does not depend on hardware and that is not on
real time basis.

8. The digital signal processing system as set forth in claim 5,

wherein the command, is described and embedded in a script of hypertext,

5 wherein the hypertext is interpreted by a browser and a picture for operating the extension function is displayed, and

wherein a command corresponding to the function is embedded and displayed in the picture for operating the extension function.

9. An extension function providing method, comprising the steps of:

10 structuring functions necessary for processing a digital signal as a plurality of digital signal processing blocks and a host arithmetic operation processing block;

15 connecting the host arithmetic operation processing block and the plurality of digital signal processing blocks through a bus; and

20 providing an interface for an extension function providing medium connected to the bus,

wherein the extension function providing medium has:

25 means for accomplishing an extension function; and

a script embedding a command for operating the extension function, and

wherein when the extension function providing medium is attached to the bus through the interface, the script is sent to the host arithmetic operation processing block side and a function of the extension function providing medium is operated corresponding to the command embedded in the script.

10. The extension function providing method as set forth in claim 9,

wherein each of the plurality of digital signal processing blocks includes means includes a step for interpreting a command received through the bus and executing the command.

11. The extension function providing method as set forth in claim 9,

wherein the command is a high layer command that does not depend on hardware and that is not on real time basis.

12. The extension function providing method as set forth in claim 9,

wherein the command is described and embedded in a script of hypertext,

wherein the hypertext is interpreted by a browser and a picture for operating the extension function is displayed, and

wherein a command corresponding to the function is embedded and displayed in the picture for operating the extension function.

Fig. 1

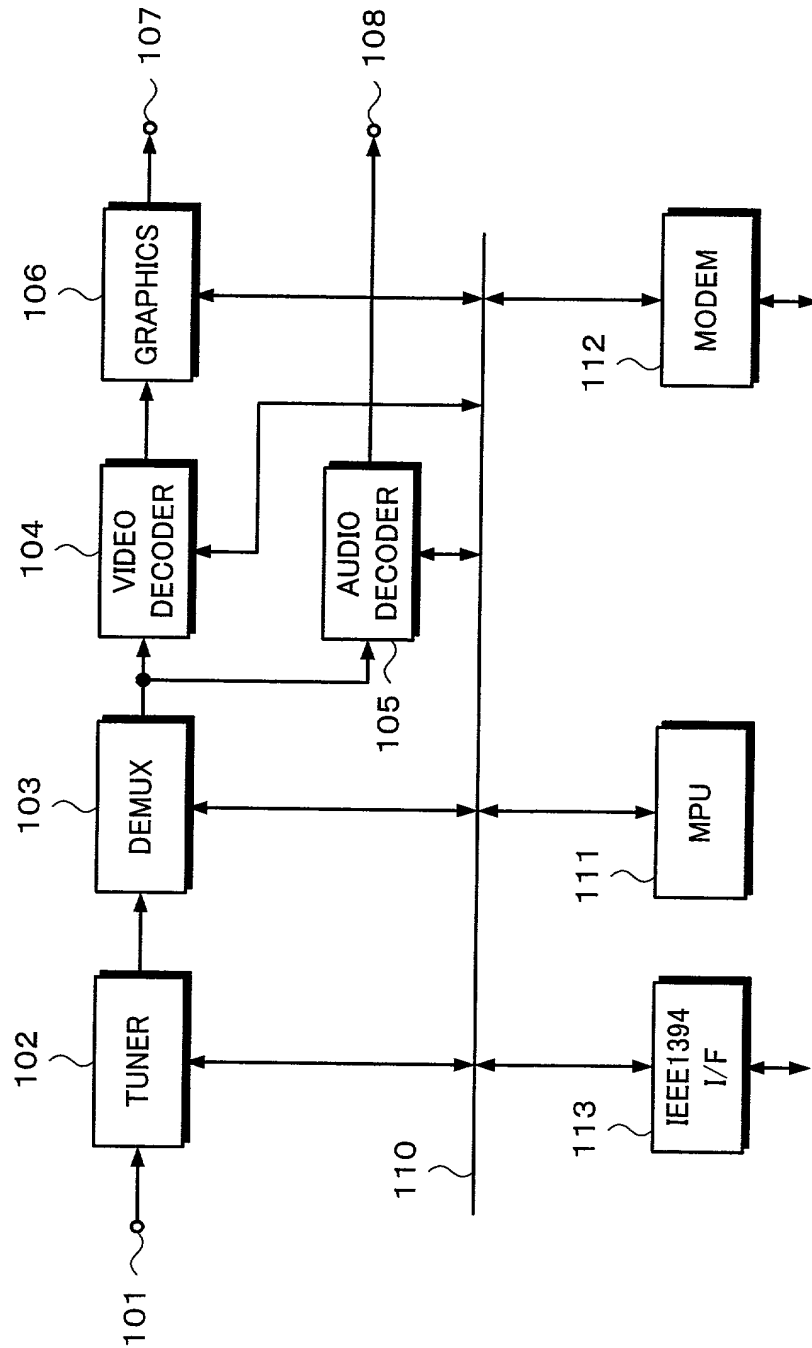


Fig. 2

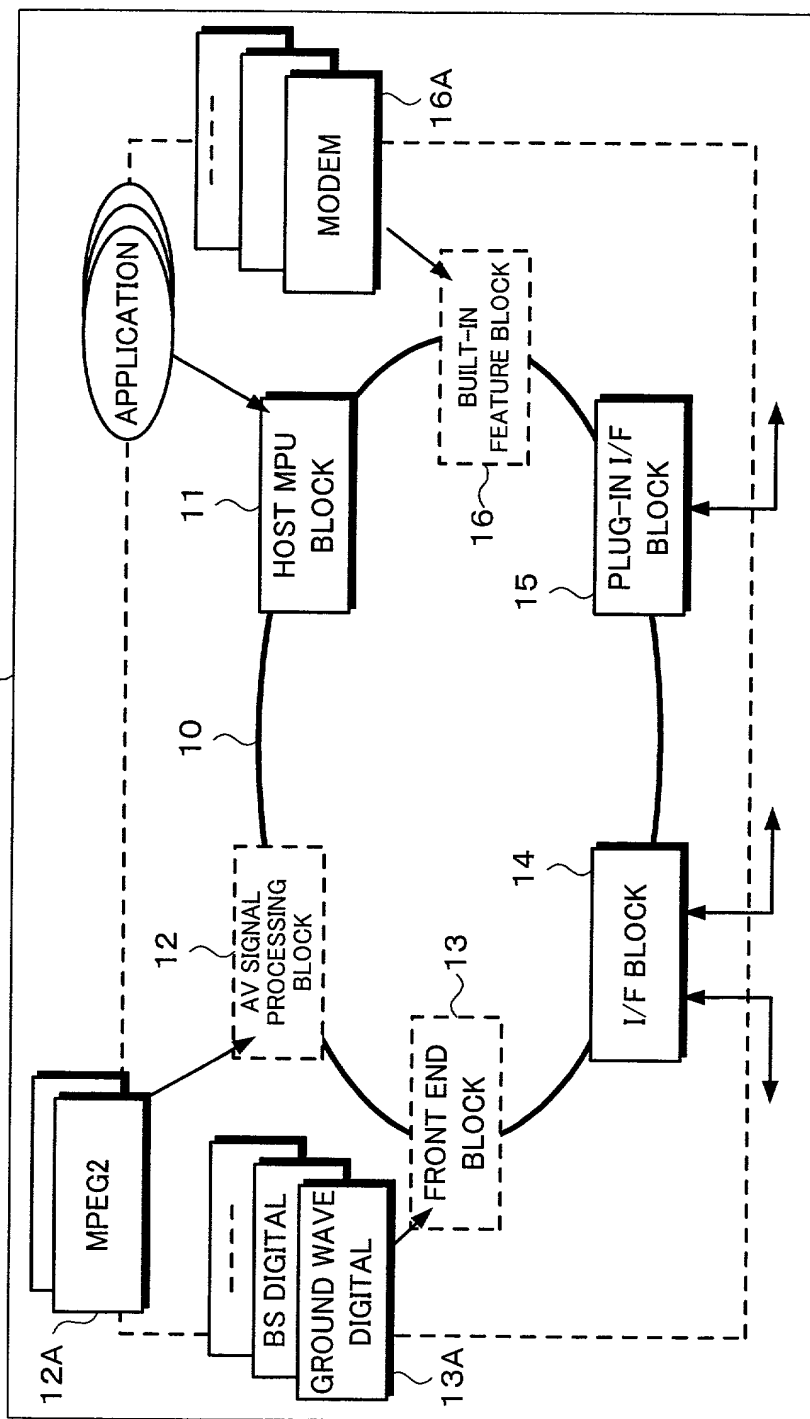


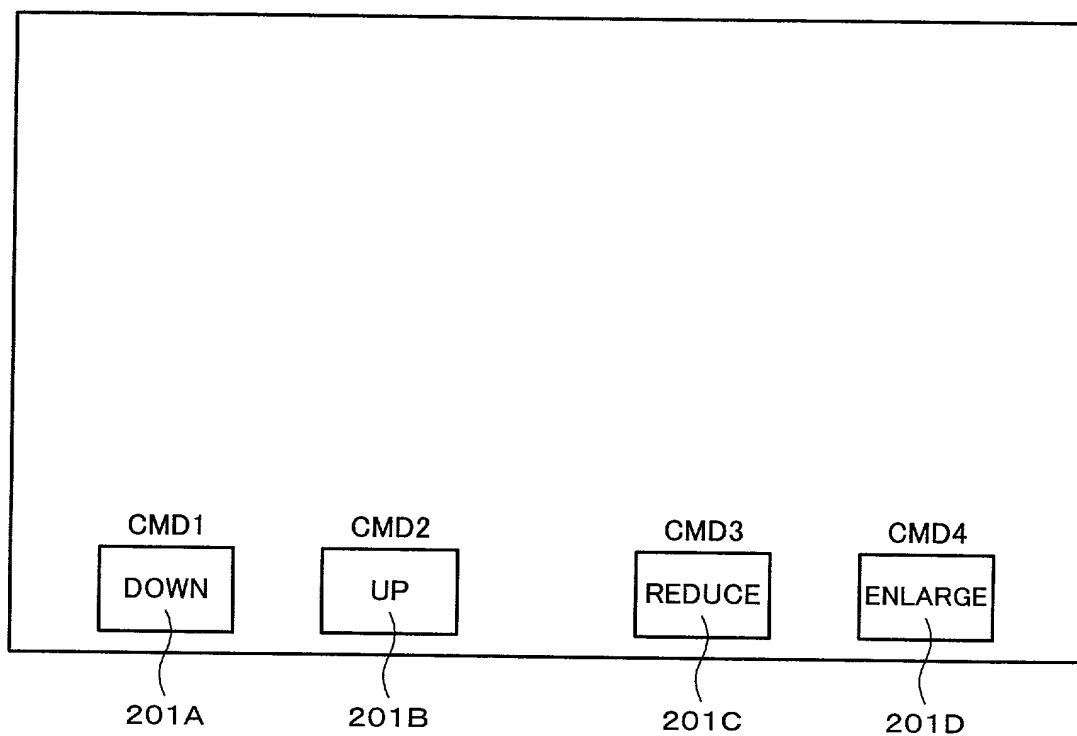
Fig. 3

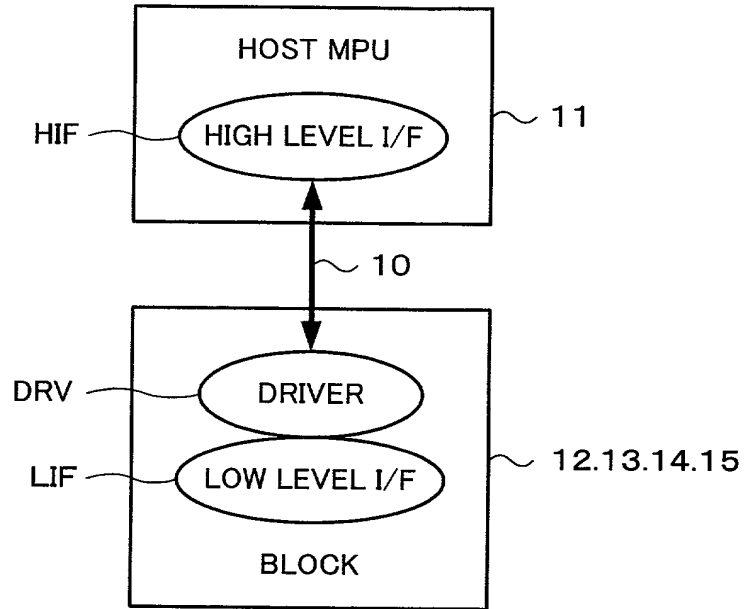
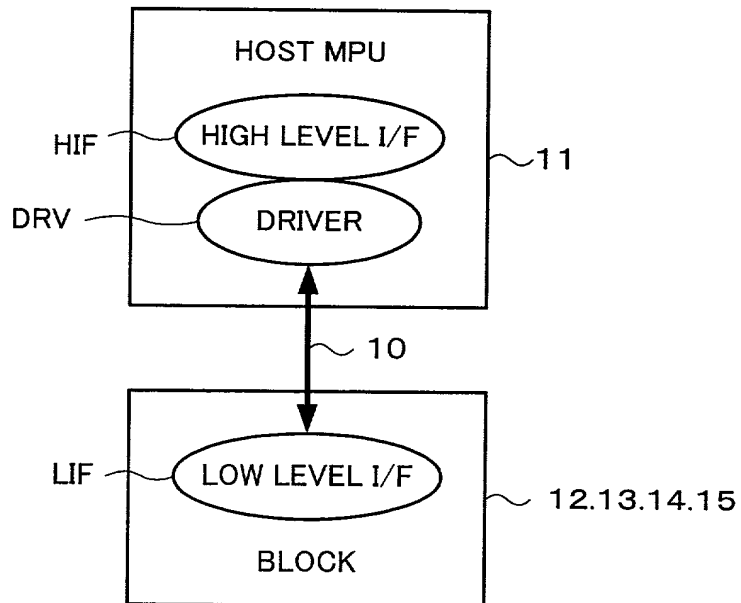
Fig. 4**Fig. 5**

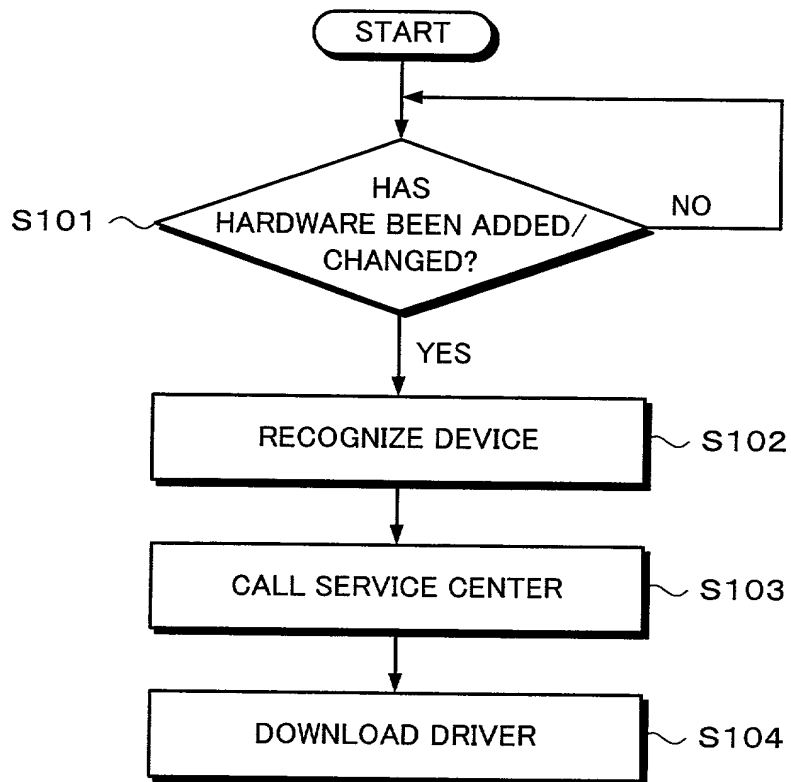
Fig. 6

Fig. 7

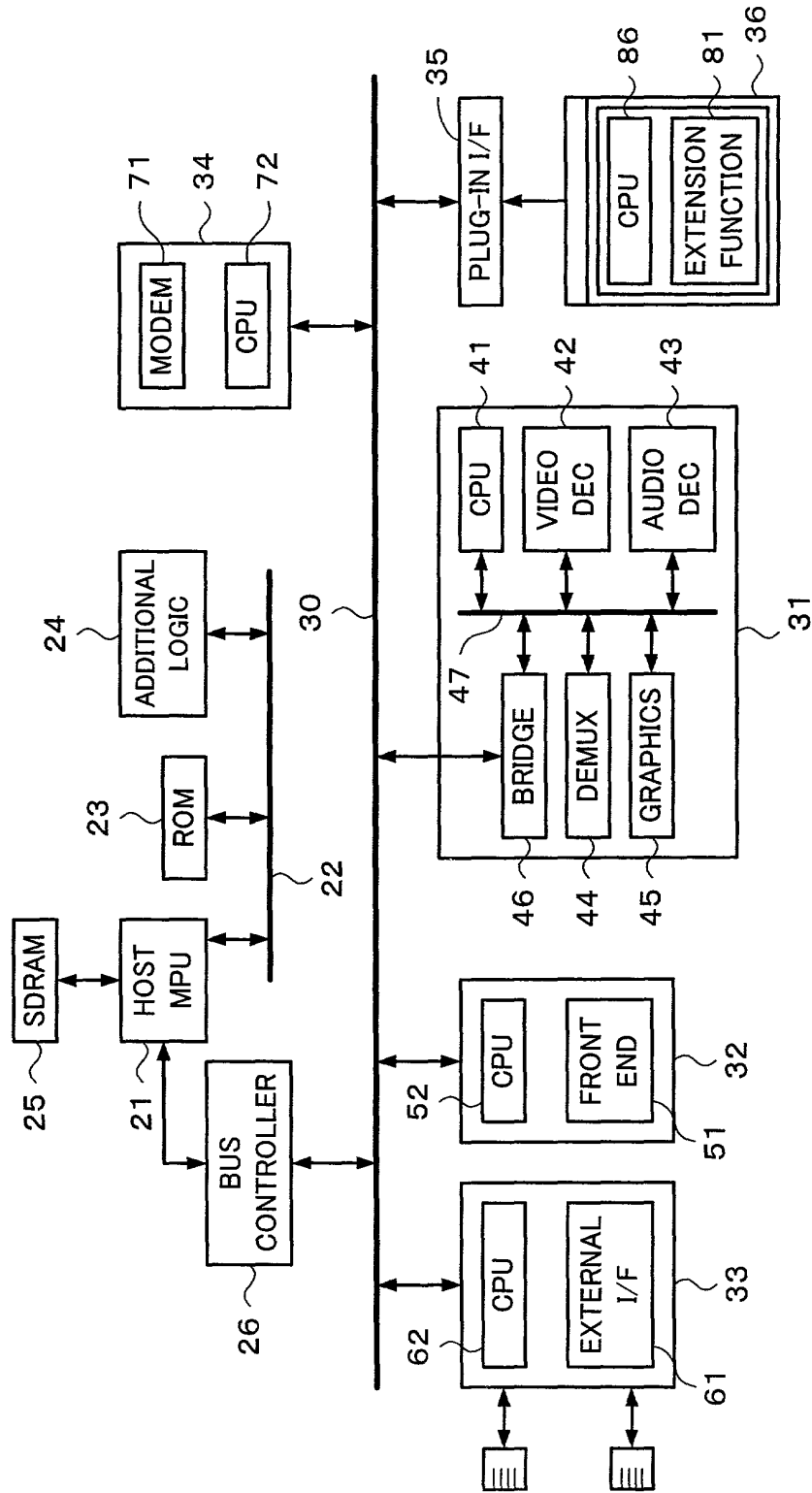


Fig. 8

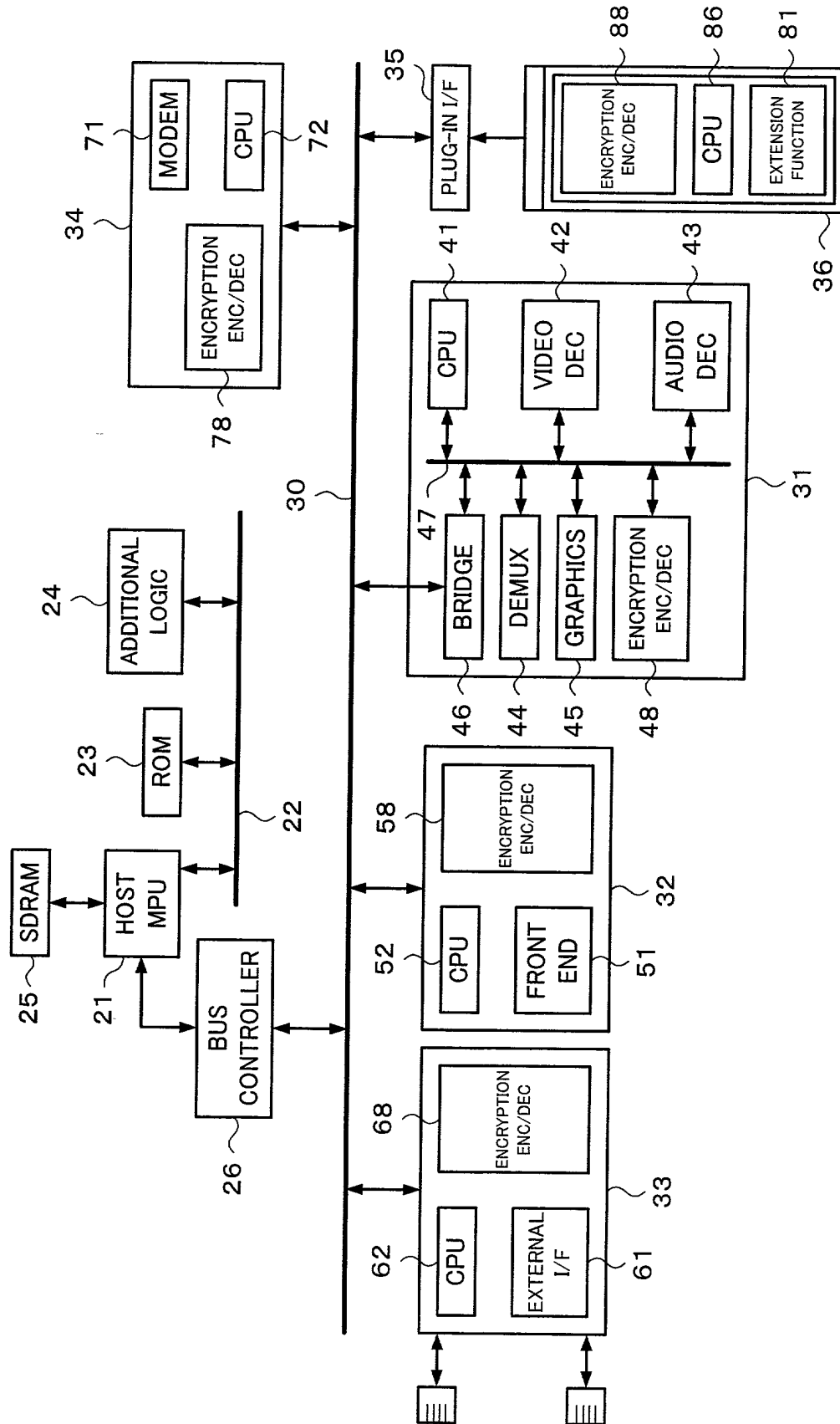


Fig. 9

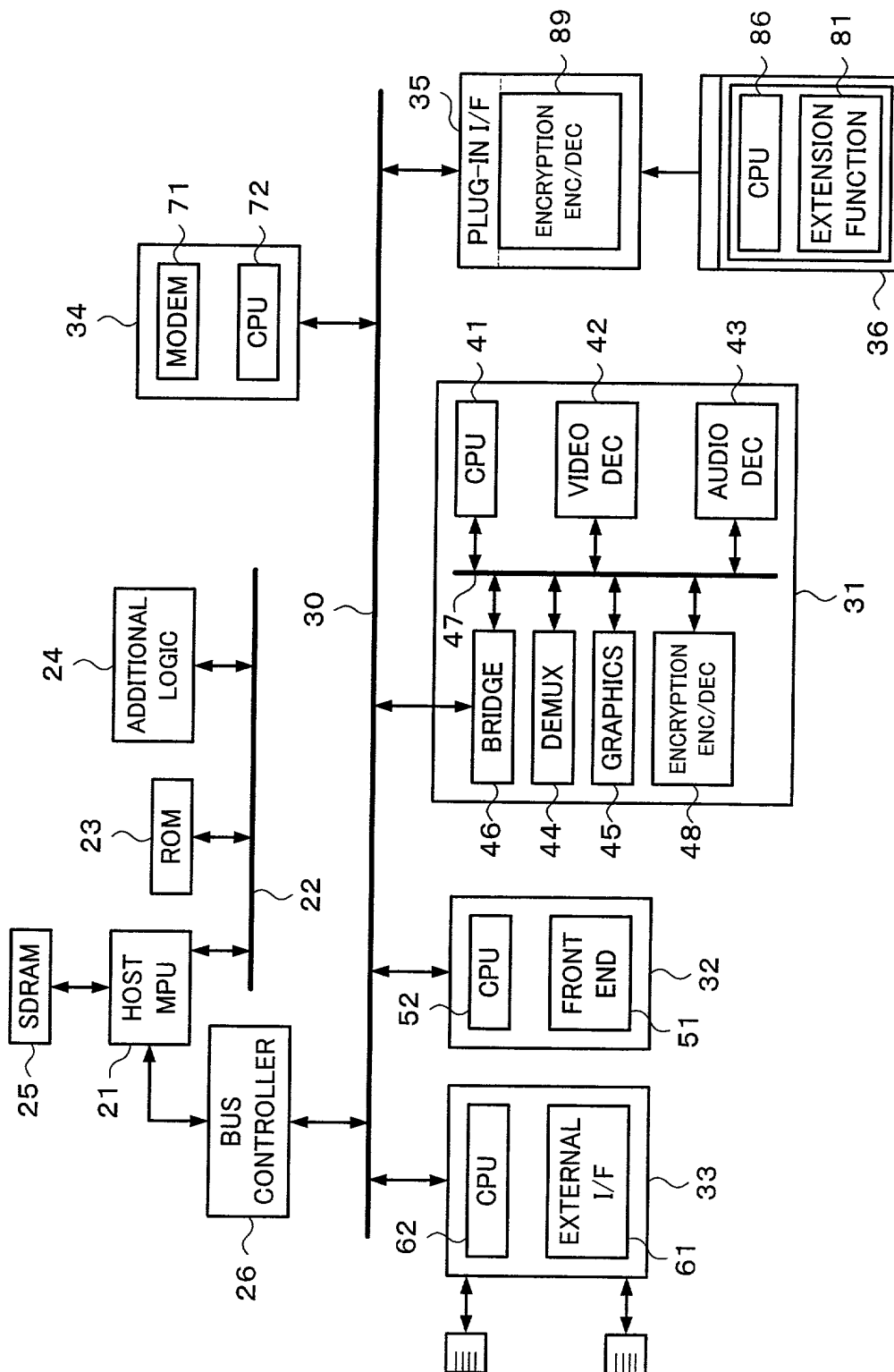


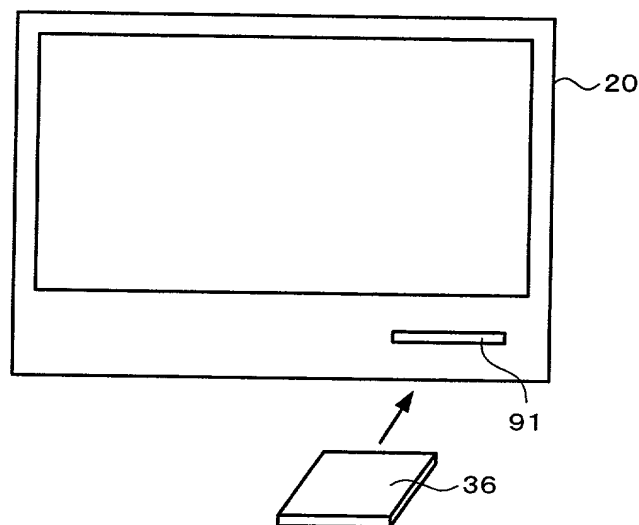
Fig. 10

Fig. 11

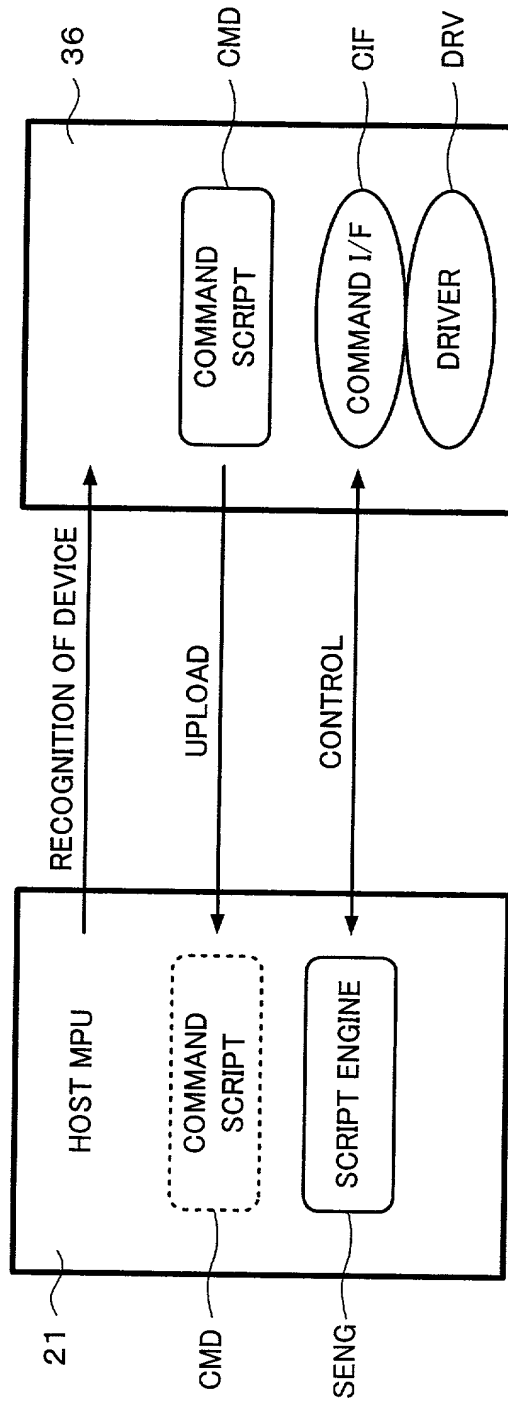


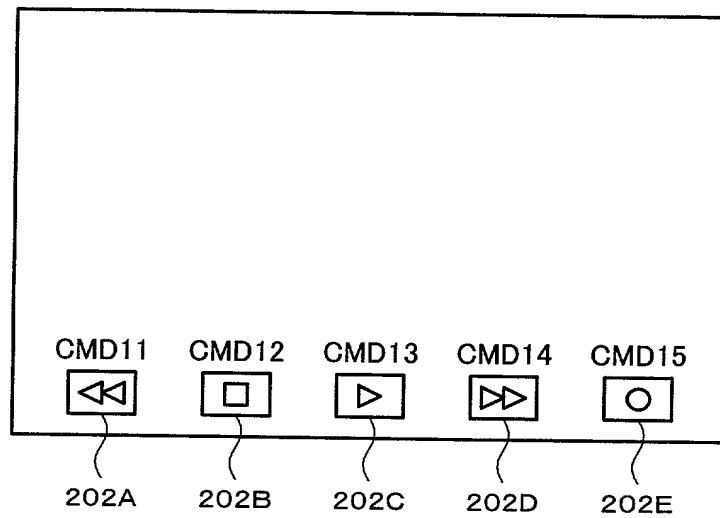
Fig. 12

Fig. 13

UPLOADING PROCESS

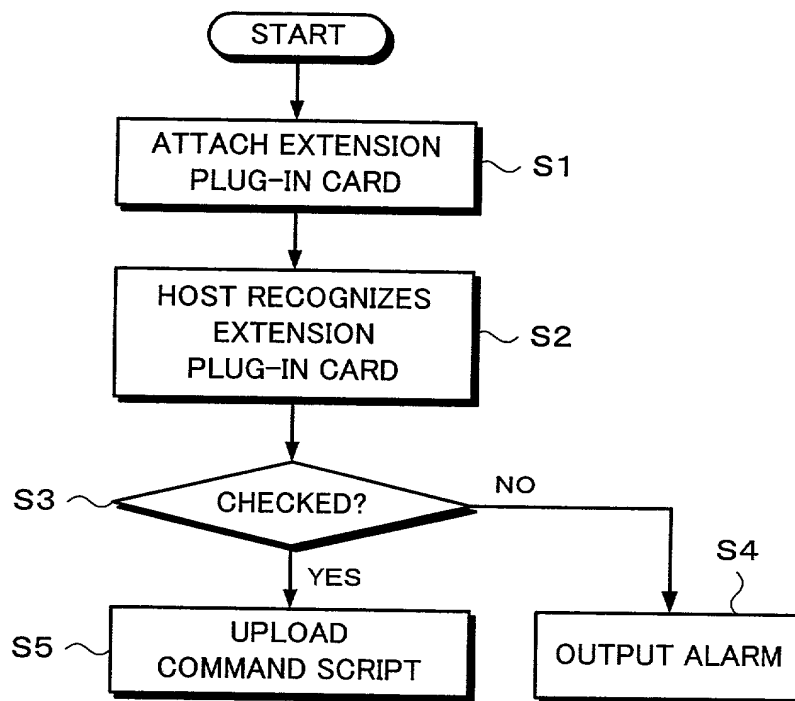
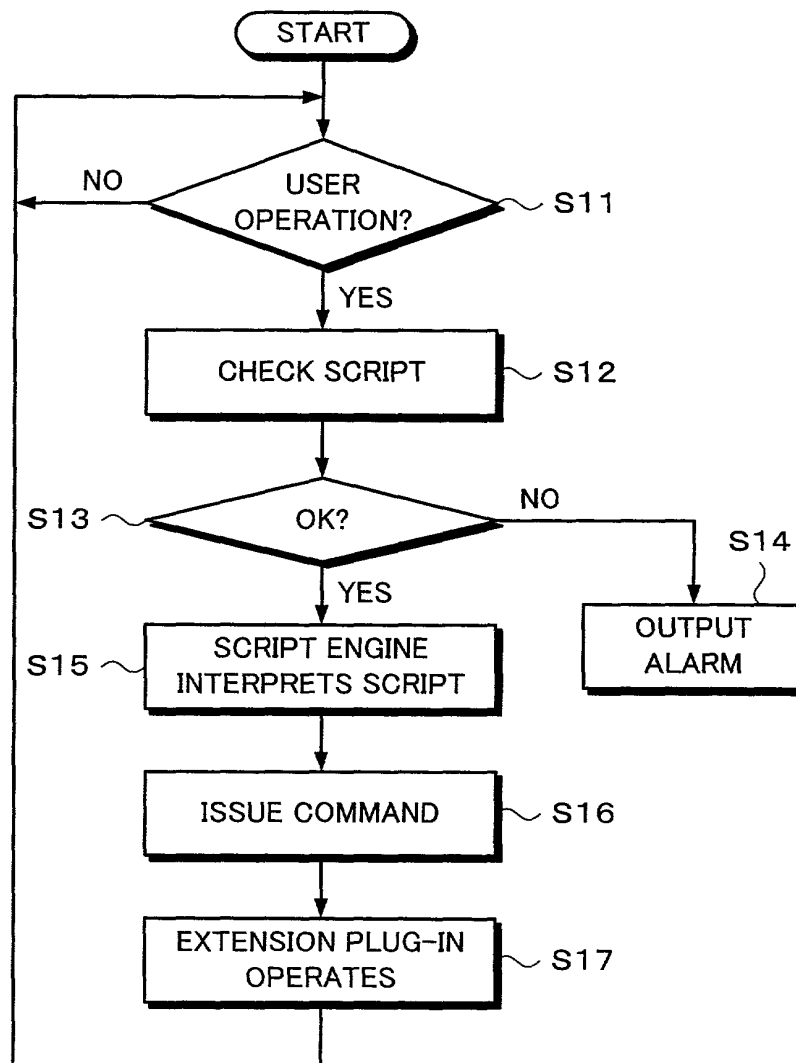


Fig. 14

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

- 10 BUS
- 11 HOST MPU BLOCK
- 12 AV SIGNAL PROCESSING BLOCK
- 13 FRONT END BLOCK
- 14 INTERFACE BLOCK
- 15 PLUG-IN INTERFACE BLOCK
- 16 BUILT-IN FEATURE BLOCK
- 48, 58, 68, 78, 88 ENCRYPTION ENCODER / DECODER

500P1411 US60

PTO/SB 106 (5-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/02. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、以下に記名された発明者として、ここに下記の通り宣言する：

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、郵便の宛先そして国籍は、私の氏名の後に記載された通りである。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name:

下記の名称の発明について、特許請求範囲に記載され、且つ特許が求められている発明主題に関して、私は、最初、最先且つ唯一の発明者である（唯一の氏名が記載されている場合）か、或いは最初、最先且つ共同発明者である（複数の氏名が記載されている場合）と信じている。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS, SYSTEM
THEREOF, AND EXTENSION FUNCTION PROVIDING
METHOD

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

上記発明の明細書はここに添付されているが、下記の額がチェックされている場合は、この限りでない：

☒ was filed on
as United States Application Number of PCT International Application Number PCT/JP00/08113
and was amended on
(if applicable).

☐ _____ の日に出版され、
この出版の米国出版番号またはPCT国際出版番号は、
_____ であり、且つ
_____ の日に補正された出版（該当する場合）

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、上記の補正書によって補正された、特許請求範囲を含む上記明細書を検討し、且つ内容を理解していることをここに表明する。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義されている、特許性について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認める。

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the need of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

日本語宣言書

私は、ここに、以下に記載した外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いは米国以外の少なくとも一國を指定している米国法典第35編第365条(a)によるPCT国際出願について、同第119条(a)(4)項又は第365条(b)項に基づいて優先権を主張するとともに、優先権を主張する本出願の出願日より前の出願日を有する外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いはPCT国際出願については、いかなる出願も、下記の枠内をチェックすることにより示した。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

11-327161

(Number)

(番号)

Japan

(Country)

(国名)

PCT/JP00/08113PCT

(Number)

(番号)

(Country)

(国名)

(Number)

(番号)

(Country)

(国名)

(Number)

(番号)

(Country)

(国名)

(Number)

(番号)

(Country)

(国名)

(Number)

(番号)

(Country)

(国名)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国仮特許出願についても、その米国法典第35編第119条(e)項の利益を主張する。

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国出願についても、その米国法典第35編第120条に基づく利益を主張し、又米国を指定するいかなるPCT国際出願についても、その同第365条(c)に基づく利益を主張する。また、本出願の各特許請求の範囲の主題が、米国法典第35編第112条第1段に規定された態様で、先行する米国出願又はPCT国際出願に開示されていない場合においては、その先行出願の出願日と本国内出願日またはPCT国際出願日との間の期間中に入手された情報で、違邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義された特許性に関わる重要な情報について開示義務があることを承認する。

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

私は、ここに表明された私自身の知識に係わる陳述が真実であり、且つ情報と信ずることに基づく陳述が、真実であると信じられることを宣言し、さらに、故意に虚偽の陳述などを行った場合は、米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、若しくはその両方により処罰され、またそのような故意による虚偽の陳述は、本出願またはそれに対して発行されるいかなる特許も、その有効性に問題が生ずることを理解した上で陳述が行われたことを、ここに宣言する。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

17 November 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

17 November 2000

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

日本語宣言書

委任状：私は本出願を審査する手続を行い、且つ米国特許商標庁との全ての業務を遂行するために、記名された発明者として、下記の弁理士及び/または弁理士を任命する。(氏名及び整理番号を記載すること)

書類送付先

直通電話連絡先：(氏名及び電話番号)

唯一または第一発明者氏名

発明者の署名

日付

住所

国籍

郵便の宛先

第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

第二共同発明者の署名

日付

住所

国籍

郵便の宛先

(第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Registration No. 25,506 and
DENNIS M. SMID, Registration No. 34,930

Send Correspondence to:

WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Esq.
c/o FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

Direct Telephone Calls to: (212) 588-0800

To the attention of: WILLIAM S. FROMMER

Full name of sole or first inventor

Masashi NAKAMURA

Inventor's signature

Date

Masashi Nakamura June 20, 2001
Residence

Chiba, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address:

Sony Corporation
7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-Chome
Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

full name of second joint inventor, if any

Hisayoshi MORIWAKI

Second Inventor's signature

Date

Hisayoshi Moriwaki June 20, 2001
Residence

Tokyo, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address

Sony Corporation
7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-Chome
Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors)

日本語宣言書

委任状： 私は本出願を審査する手続を行い、且つ米国特許商標庁との全ての業務を遂行するために、記名された発明者として、下記の弁護士及び/または弁理士を任命する。(氏名及び整理番号を記載すること)

書類送付先

直通電話連絡先：(氏名及び電話番号)

第三共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

第三共同発明者の署名

日付

住所

国籍

郵便の宛先

第四共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

第四共同発明者の署名

日付

住所

国籍

郵便の宛先

(第五以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Registration No. 25,506 and
DENNIS M. SMID, Registration No. 34,930

Send Correspondence to:
WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Esq.
c/o FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

Direct Telephone Calls to: (212) 588-0800
To the attention of: **WILLIAM S. FROMMER**

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

Sunao FURUI

Third inventor's signature

Date

Sunao Furui

June 22, 2001

Residence

Kanagawa, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address:

Sony Corporation
7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-Chome
Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any

Ichiro HAMADA

Fourth Inventor's signature

Date

Ichiro Hamada

June 26, 2001

Residence

Kanagawa, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address:

Sony Corporation
7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-Chome
Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

(Supply similar information and signature for fifth and subsequent joint inventors)